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Drought

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Drought

by Rochelle Shapiro

How can the tub become a swimming hole
for a four-year-old girl to rock on her hands and knees,
neck stretched, curls dripping, dangling.
When she sits up, what will she slap
to make waves and what will lap against her chest?

Spring and summer dusks, the sprinkler will no longer
sst, sst, sst. There will be no grass
to carpet her bare feet, no rainbowed shower
to charge into. What will fill her tin watering can
with its painted daisies? Will her mother's
rosebushes grow without water?

How will she stomp in crunchy autumn leaves?
Will there be any leaves at all? If there's no water,
will there be snow? How will she lie, face-up,
scissor her arms and legs to make snow angels?
Will she one day ask,
"Grandma, what's a lawn?"
"What's a bath?"

